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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO
10/602,784	06/24/2003	Basil C. Linton	ITW-13971	1672
44702	7590 10/05/2005		EXAMINER	
OSTRAGER CHONG FLAHERTY & BROITMAN PC			HYLTON, ROBIN ANNETTE	
250 PARK AVENUE, SUITE 825 NEW YORK, NY 10177			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			3727	

DATE MAILED: 10/05/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

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·	Application No.	Applicant(s)					
055	10/602,784	LINTON ET AL.					
Office Action Summary	Examiner	Art Unit					
	Robin A. Hylton	3727					
The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address Period for Reply							
A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.  - Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.  - If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.  - Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).							
Status							
<ul> <li>1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 15 August 2005.</li> <li>2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.</li> <li>3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under Ex parte Quayle, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.</li> </ul>							
Disposition of Claims							
<ul> <li>4)  Claim(s) 1-3,5-12,27-33 and 42 is/are pending in the application.</li> <li>4a) Of the above claim(s) is/are withdrawn from consideration.</li> <li>5)  Claim(s) is/are allowed.</li> <li>6)  Claim(s) 1-3,5-12,27-33 and 42 is/are rejected.</li> <li>7)  Claim(s) is/are objected to.</li> <li>8)  Claim(s) are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.</li> </ul>							
Application Papers .							
9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.  10) The drawing(s) filed on is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.  Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).  11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.							
Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119		•					
<ul> <li>12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).</li> <li>a) All b) Some * c) None of:</li> <li>1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.</li> <li>2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No.</li> <li>3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).</li> <li>* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.</li> </ul>							
Attachment(s)							
1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date  S Palent and Trademark Office	4) Interview Summary ( Paper No(s)/Mail Da 5) Notice of Informal Pa 6) Other:						

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#### **DETAILED ACTION**

# Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

1. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on August 15, 2005 has been entered.

## Double Patenting

2. The nonstatutory double patenting rejection is based on a judicially created doctrine grounded in public policy (a policy reflected in the statute) so as to prevent the unjustified or improper timewise extension of the "right to exclude" granted by a patent and to prevent possible harassment by multiple assignees. See *In re Goodman*, 11 F.3d 1046, 29 USPQ2d 2010 (Fed. Cir. 1993); *In re Longi*, 759 F.2d 887, 225 USPQ 645 (Fed. Cir. 1985); *In re Van Ornum*, 686 F.2d 937, 214 USPQ 761 (CCPA 1982); *In re Vogel*, 422 F.2d 438, 164 USPQ 619 (CCPA 1970); and *In re Thorington*, 418 F.2d 528, 163 USPQ 644 (CCPA 1969).

A timely filed terminal disclaimer in compliance with 37 CFR 1.321(c) may be used to overcome an actual or provisional rejection based on a nonstatutory double patenting ground provided the conflicting application or patent is shown to be commonly owned with this application. See 37 CFR 1.130(b).

Effective January 1, 1994, a registered attorney or agent of record may sign a terminal disclaimer. A terminal disclaimer signed by the assignee must fully comply with 37 CFR 3.73(b).

3. Claims 1-3, 5-12, 27-30, 31-33, and 42 are provisionally rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 10,12-14,24-27, and 29-31 of copending Patent Application Publication No. 2004/0161170 in

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view of Arnell (US 5,851,071) and Ausnit et al (US 2004/0136618). The claims of the published application teaches a bag having a string zipper at a top end actuated by a slider and a header, or flap, at a lower end of the bag, but does not set forth a second zipper at the bottom above the header. Arnell teaches it is known to provide a bag with a string zipper at a top end actuated by a slider and a header, or flap, at a lower end of the bag and a second non-reclosable string zipper at the bottom of the bag above the header. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to apply the teaching of a second non-reclosable string zipper at the bottom of the bag above the header of the published claims. Doing so ensures the integrity of the sealed package upon removal of the header.

Regarding claim 9 and 10, the published claims do not recited specific structure of the slider to include a plow as in the claims the instant application. Ausnit teaches is it known to utilized a slider with a plow for ease of opening and reclosing the zipper. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to further apply the slider of Ausnit to the bag of the published claims for ease of using the reclosable zipper as is known in the art.

This is a provisional obviousness-type double patenting rejection.

### Allowable Subject Matter

4. Claims 1-3,5-12,27-33 and 42 would be allowable if rewritten or amended to overcome the rejections under non-statutory double patenting set forth in this Office action.

#### Conclusion

- 5. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Various prior art closures teaching features similar to those disclosed and/or claimed are cited for their disclosures.
- 6. In order to reduce pendency and avoid potential delays, Group 3720 is encouraging FAXing of responses to Office Actions directly into the Group at (571) 273-8300. This practice

may be used for filing papers not requiring a fee. It may also be used for filing papers which require a fee by applicants who authorize charges to a PTO deposit account. Please identify the examiner and art unit at the top of your cover sheet. Papers submitted via FAX into Group 3720 will be promptly forwarded to the examiner.

7. It is called to applicant's attention that if a communication is faxed before the reply time has expired, applicant may submit the reply with a "Certificate of Facsimile" which merely asserts that the reply is being faxed on a given date. So faxed, before the period for reply has expired, the reply may be considered timely. A suggested format for a certificate follows:

I hereby certify that this correspondence for Application Serial No. \_\_\_\_\_ is being facsimiled to The U.S. Patent and Trademark Office via fax number 571-273-8300 on the date shown below:

Typed or printed name of person signing this certificate	
Signature	
Date	

8. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Robin Hylton whose telephone number is (571) 272-4540. The examiner can normally be reached Monday - Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. (Eastern time).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Nathan Newhouse, can be reached on (571) 272-4544.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

RAH September 30, 2005

> Robin'Al Hylton Primary Examiner GAU 3727